

LETTER FROM MR. THRASHER.

IN PRISON, HAVANA, NOV. 14, 1851.

To the Editor of the N. Y. Daily Times:

SIR: In consequence of the thousand false reports that are circulated in regard to myself, I would request you to deny explicitly that there have been found among my papers any letters or documents that compromise any one in any manner whatever, not even myself, if I am allowed the advantage of defence.

I refrain from further remark pending my trial.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. S. THRASHER.

Subjoined we give a letter from a lady of high respectability, who resides at Albany, which we extract from the Albany Argus:

"All the newspaper accounts, with their exaggerations, do not convey an idea of the utter injustice done him. Kown as the editor of the only Creole organ here, he seems to have been marked particularly as being too clever a man for the American Consul here. They will have it that he has so strong a party in the States as to be a dangerous man. Hence the determination to convict him. He had no one to protest and demand his rights under our treaty with Spain. From what has transpired, there has been a concerted plot to entrap him—the government being at the bottom of it. To their excessive mortification, they have been found out. Letters have been written—most palpably not by an American—for they are addressed to him by the wrong name, spelled according to the Spanish mode, 'Trasser'—which it was designed, should be found in his possession. But by some mistake, they arrested him some days too soon. Then it was pretended that the letters were found in his room, since his arrest, but the seals were unbroken. And yet these letters constitute the principal ground of accusation. Another charge is that he contrived to receive a piece of paper, brought in with his food, after he was placed in his dungeon, and forbidden any communication with others. The boy who brought his food to him, was imprisoned ten days. Mr. T's brother was also imprisoned three days; and his father, an aged and sick man, who was expected to die at any moment, was obliged to leave his sick bed and appear for examination.

"Mr Thrasher was yesterday to be sentenced—but he protested, and it has been deferred for three days longer. For want of a prompt and efficient course on the part of our government, here is an innocent man, broken in health and business, in his best years, his whole prospects ruined—and all save a few fearing to do aught in his behalf, but seemingly inclined to side with the Spanish authorities, and believe his accusers, rather than his own clear, noble, indignant protest and demand for his rights as an American citizen.

"Overtures have been made, and money offered him to effect his escape—but so confident is he that the government dare not proceed to extremes on the very weak grounds they have brought forward, that he prefers and demands a trial. It is said privately, that a large sum of money has been raised for him among the Creoles, to be tendered to him in the event of his release—but they dare not express their sympathy openly.

"Our government is acting as usual—delaying relief until the patient dies. If Judge Sharkey had come out in the Isabel, he could have saved Mr. Thrasher. We have not even a vessel of war here. Our Consul is so situated that the Governor and authorities will not and do not care for him. They all have the idea that our government is weak, and cannot or will not protect its citizens. So they are hurrying on Mr. T's case, and are much enraged with his protest of yesterday."

The Detroit Free Press says:

"We have been requested heretofore, by both whigs and democrats, to state our impressions of the cause of Mr. Thrasher's imprisonment. Our friends will recollect we have frequently stated our conviction to be that because Mr. Thrasher was an enterprising publisher of a paper called the *Faro Industrial*, and had shown more energy than his associates of the Press, it was found necessary to ruin him. To get him out of the way of competition all this shameful work has been done. This government is the embodied sentiment of the American people, and each citizen in it, or who may have passed beyond its jurisdiction, is entitled to its full protection. The disgraceful doctrine of Empirics, that the citizen who goes abroad leaves behind him no government to look to his treatment from others; that the American citizen loses his citizenship when he leaves the boundaries of the Republic, cannot and will not be endorsed by the people of the United States. Our government in other countries has been a by-word and a reproach for its disregard of the rights of its citizens. Americans have been jeered and jibed through the streets, and taunted with open declarations that they have no government. And we have now a case in point. Mr. Thrasher is imprisoned, and the United States government is doing nothing for him.

"Its organ, the *Republic*, like a whipped spaniel, is crouching beneath the frowns of the imbecile court of Madrid. Spain, that presents no living statesman, warrior or philosopher—Spain, once great, now the falling outcast of civilization; debased, prostituted, enervated, is dictating to the Cabinet at Washington terms of indemnity, while John S. Thrasher is chained and being sacrificed at Havana!

"Mr. Thrasher is being sacrificed by shameless perjury, and by the direct connivance of the Spanish government; meantime Louis Napoleon sends to his Chamber of Deputies, the following paragraph, concerning the 'Loyal' conduct of Mr. Fillmore's Government towards Spain."

"We have eagerly seized the opportunity to furnish Spain with a sure proof of the sincerity and regard of our relations, by joining England in offering the Cabinet of Madrid the assistance of our naval force to repulse the late audacious attack against Cuba. Besides, our Minister at Washington has been instructed amicably to support the reclamations of the Court of Madrid, and the injustice of these reclamations has been most loyally recognized by the Federal Government."

The position of the United States is one of the deepest humiliation. With power equal to the demands of right; with energy and determination in its people, sufficient for all the ends of justice; with treaties to guarantee the protection of its meaneast citizen, we are compelled to witness in our Executive, the basest subser-

vice, or, perhaps, we may be more charitable, and call it a stupid and ignorant estimate of what is due to one of our people. Michigan is represented in both Houses of Congress, and we call upon our Senators and our Representatives, to be foremost in protecting the National honor, which is being tarnished in the gross outrages perpetrated upon the person of Mr. T.—We call upon Gen. Cass, a man not more devoted to his own honor, than faithful to the character of the people of the United States and their Government, we call upon him to examine the circumstances, and to give his exertions to the cause of Justice. It is not the first time that the Cuban Government has outraged every sense of decency and humanity in their treatment of Americans; but if our Government does its duty, it will be the last time. We have no hesitation in asserting, that whatever might be the consequences, in the event that the Cuban Government continues its machinations against our people, it will be the right and the duty of every American citizen, to engage himself for the overthrow of that power. Whatever the Government may say; this will be the voice of the people. We will wait for justice; but justice we must have.

UTAH.—A correspondent of the Alexandria Gazette, under date Sept. 10, says, that the Mormons, the anniversary of whose settlement, by a singular coincidence, fall on the 4th of July, used the late celebration to denounce the President and Government of the United States. Governor Young, on that day, said among other things of a similar character Zachary Taylor is dead and gone to hell, and I am glad of it, which sentiment was assented to by a solemn amen from the whole audience. He afterwards said:

"I prophecy, in the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of the priesthood that is upon me, that any other President of the United States, who shall lift his finger against this people will die an untimely death, and go to hell."

The general feeling was pretty fairly expressed by this sort of fanaticism.

The correspondent further said, that being introduced by the Governor, to address a meeting 3000 in number, he vindicated the Government and President Taylor, and although calmly heard to the end, the Governor mounted the rostrum when he had concluded, and denounced him and the Government, and held him up to public odium, so as to imperil his existence.

The \$20,000 appropriated by Congress for public buildings has been taken to pay off the debts of the church, and only a short time before the merchants and Judges left, Brigham Young called together, secretly, the Legislature, and passed resolutions and issued orders for the seizure of \$24,000 more from the hands of Harris; Harris persisted in retaining it, and only by the using of an injunction by the Supreme Court was able to do so, and get away with the money.

WHAT IS TREASON?—Some of the Free Soil Whig papers affect to sneer at those who have denominated the outrages at Christiana and Syracuse, as treason against the United States. A more complete answer to these sneers perhaps cannot be given, than the plain, practical definition of treason, given by Mr. Justice Story in his charge to the grand jury of the Circuit Court of the United States, holden at Newport R. I., in 1842. He then said:

"In regard to the treasonable design, it is not necessary that it should be a direct and positive intention entirely to subvert or overthrow the government. It will be equally treason if the intention is by force to prevent the execution of any one or more general and public laws of the government, or to resist the exercise of any legitimate authority of the government in its sovereign capacity. Thus, if there is an assembly of persons with force, with intent to prevent the collection of the lawful taxes or duties levied by the government—or to destroy all custom houses or to resist the administration of justice in the Courts of the United States, and they proceed to execute their purpose by force, there can be no doubt that it would be treason against the United States."

Every person can determine for themselves, in reading the accounts of the outrages at Christiana and Syracuse; whether they come within the meaning of the above definition of treason.

DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA.—It is generally understood that a movement is on foot, having for its object the dismemberment of the present State of California, and its division into two separate commonwealths. Whatever may be the result of the effort now in progress, the reasons given for it, are certainly cogent, and in many respects, we imagine unanswerable. The unequal burthens, which now bear so heavily upon the farming portion of community in California are summed up as follows:

"That the mining counties of the north, containing the mass of the population of the State, pay a very small proportion of the taxes.

"That the burdens of taxation fall upon the farmers, graziers, and landholders of the south. That the State is in debt to the extent of \$2,000,000; that the cities and counties of the northern section are also involved; and that the prospect is an addition to the exaction upon the south.

"That they desire to escape the partial ruinous legislation of rash and ignorant politicians, fund-mongers, stock-jobbers, and speculators.

"That from the extent of the surface of the State, it will be next to impossible to make laws of a general nature, which will not be injurious to the pastoral interests of the southern counties."

SET UP A DOT.—We copy the following from the *Voice of the Fugitive*, a paper printed in Sandwich, Canada West.

"S. B. Depp, a colored man, late of Ann Arbor, Mich., we understand, is travelling and lecturing through Ohio, or Pennsylvania, on the subject of slavery. He represents himself as being an agent for the colored people of Michigan, and agent for the *Voice of the Fugitive*, at other times, and is also collecting money to establish an anti-slavery library. We are requested by several respectable persons in Ann Arbor to caution the public against him, as he has no authority to collect for any such purposes. As to his being an agent for the *Voice of the Fugitive*, we know this to be false; and any person who gives him money for this, they do it at their own risk."

Mr. Ezra Hodges, supposed to be the last of Washington's Life Guardsmen, died at East Vassalborough, Me., on the 1st of October, aged 91 years.

THE GRAND RIVER TIMES.

HENRY PENNOYER, EDITOR.

GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 10, 1851.

Mr. THRASHER whose condition has for a few weeks excited the American public to a laudable degree, in behalf of the treatment of an American citizen by a foreign power, was a native of Maine, and for some years past has been connected with the publication of the *Faro Industrial*, a Journal published at Havana. Soon after the disastrous result of the Cuban expedition, headed by Lopez, the publication of the *Industrial* was suppressed, by order of the Captain General, upon the supposition of Mr. THRASHER's unfaithfulness to the government of Cuba, and his connection with the filibusteroes or patriots of the Island. After a summary trial on the 12th ult., he was sentenced to eight years imprisonment, at hard labor, in a Spanish fortress, on the coast of Morocco. Two hours only were allowed him for preparation on his final trial, and out of fifty officers he was allowed to make choice of one as counsel. He, however, did not appear in his behalf; and Mr. THRASHER was denied the privilege of defending himself. He protested against their proceedings as a violation of the rights of citizens of the United States by treaty stipulations with the Spanish government. It was urged that he had voluntarily forfeited his right to the protection of the government of the United States, by taking out a "letter of domiciliation," which expired in 1847; thus constituting him a citizen of Spain, and subject to the laws thereof. Our new Consul at Havana, will doubtless receive instructions from the President to examine into the merits of the case respecting Mr. THRASHER's offence, trial and sentence.

The past week has been diversified with a little snow—less sleighing—moderate east-south-east and southerly winds—rain—disappearance of snow; and now we have a day which is ominous rather of the near approach of the vernal season, than the commencement of winter's reign.

LADIES' KEEPSAKE.—The Dec. No. of this tasty monthly is on our table, and should have received a notice last week. As usual, it is replete with the best of matter—just the work for ladies. John S. Taylor, Publisher. N. Y., price \$1.00.

DIVISION OF OREGON.—By the last news from the Pacific, we learn that the proposed division of Oregon, so as to organize from it a separate territory, to be called Columbia, meets with general favor in that part of the country which will be embraced in the territorial government. Congress is to be memorialized upon the subject at an early day. A convention has recommended the division of the territory north of the Columbia river into twelve counties, with well described boundaries. The convention is to meet again at Olympia, some time about the middle of next May, there to form a State Convention, preparatory to asking admission into the Union as one of the States thereof, provided that Congress has not at that time organized a territorial government. The total absence of all municipal law and civil officers, the great distance from the seat of the present government and the isolated situation of this part of the territory therefrom, and many other reasons, are urged as to the propriety of the organization of a separate territorial government. [Buffalo Journal.]

THE IRISH PATRIOTS.—While our country and our government are uniting to do honor to the illustrious Hungarian and German patriots, some of whom are here, and others daily expected to arrive among us, in a manner at once creditable to the nation, and unspeakably grateful to the recipients, let us not forget that O'Brien, Meagher and Mitchell, still languish in a penal colony, under the iron rule of their British jailers. They periled all for the rescue of the land of their nativity from the despotic thralldom of English tyranny, and overpowered by numbers, have met a fate, which should have befallen none other than the meanest felons who disgrace humanity.

For these men, we would again invoke the aid of all good citizens. None need our active sympathy more than these noble captives, sufferers for the same cause, which has been made illustrious by its successful issue in our own land—the sacred cause of liberty, civil and religious. Let us meet together in the cities and hamlets of our country, and firmly and unitedly call upon our government their kind offices with the Cabinet of London, in behalf of the noble Irishmen. Who that has an American heart in his bosom, beating warmly for the oppressed of every clime, will not second such an effort in behalf of men whose only crime has been a determined resistance to political misrule. [Det. Free Press.]

HORRIBLE.—An examination took place in Boston, a few days since, before Commissioner Hallet, which, for its peculiar and astounding atrocity, has rarely been equalled.

One Captain Teale, master of a vessel bound from New Orleans to Boston, "shipped" a lad as cook, &c., in the latter city, but when some five days out, the lad grew sick—kept his bunk—was hauled out by the mate and kicked, says the evidence, until the boots of the mate were thro' at the toes! Recompensing, next day the captain took the boy in hand, tried him up to the rigging and gave him twenty-five lashes, threw him down into the scuppers after the operation and washed the poor lad's wounds in brine! For the next twelve days the boy was whipped aloft and below, finally shut up under the booby hatch, on top of a load of cotton, denied light, air and food; the result was death, the most horrible! In this case not damnable? Yet the Commissioner allowed the atrocious monster to get off on \$1,000 bail. The mate in evidence before the Court, said, the feller died, to escape work.

Drive your business; let not that drive you.

A REMINISCENCE OF KOSSUTH.

Whoever saw the sunburnt faces of the warriors who surrounded the bending form of Kossuth, when he pronounced his farewell words in the barracks of Szilumla—whoever beheld the hot tears coursing down the cheeks of his bearded Hoveds, when Kossuth bade them "lesos" adieu—will have been reminded of the incident of the "Old Guard," who maintained their unswerving devotion to Napoleon to the latest moment. That moving scene so often represented in pictures, "Napoleon's farewell to his faithful," was, on the 15th of February, 1850, rehearsed before my eyes in living colors. They hung in silence upon his very word, that the echo of those well-beloved and inspiring tones might linger on their souls. Nor did Kossuth forget to gaze long and intently upon the countenance of each brave comrade there, to fix the features on his memory.

Profoundly agitated as he was, with a trembling voice he spoke these words:

"Brothers! the first hard necessity of my life for me was that to which I was subjected when constrained to abandon my native soil and noble nation; the second meets me to-day; when I behold myself obliged to bid a long farewell to you, glorious remnants of the Hungarian army, and compelled by force to depart from Europe, to a place where the grave years for me. Ye are still strong and efficient—ye are still permitted by fate to bear arms for our fatherland, and to struggle for its freedom—a boon no longer granted to me, for I feel my strength failing with me every day, I yield to the untimely decree of destiny, and see myself doomed to the same sad lot of exile which was meted out to my predecessor Rakoczy. Brothers! ye are yet young enough to see our fatherland in the glory of her restoration to freedom.

"Should ye be so blest as to witness this, swear to me that ye will not leave my bones to moulder in a foreign soil, in the land of the barbarian. This you will promise me, and this I am convinced ye will fulfill."

Here Count Ladislaus Vay, with uncovered head, stepped up to Kossuth, and said aloud in a strong and manly voice:

"Great man! who standest there, pure and spotless before the eyes of the world—thou whom the Hungarian nation honors to-day as it honored thee when it chose thee for its regent—thou wilt, thou shalt, thou must live! Not thy bones, but thy living self, we will bear back in triumph to our fatherland! This we swear by the Almighty God." And all bared their heads while they uplifted their hands to take the oath, and solemnly repeated, "Eshubank!" we swear it. Kossuth kissed and embraced those who stood nearest to him. All pressed toward him to grasp his hand and bathe it with tears.

The old huzzars strove once more to press the hem of his mantle to their lips. The whole group was heart rending to look upon; even the Turks—and this saying much—were moved to tears at the sight. The train then repaired to Count Casimir Bathyani, to bid him also a heartfelt farewell. The Count left many beautiful reflections of his noble soul in the remembrances of the emigration. Kossuth mounted his horse and was borne away. That brilliant star of the firmament of Hungary, from which the nation had received its greatest light, gradually disappeared, until it could no longer be seen in the whole circuit of the horizon. The waves of the Black Sea once more gave back a reflection of its splendor, and a long night closed in upon that too brief day.

KOSSUTH.—By some Englishmen and Americans, the name of the great Hungarian patriot is pronounced *Kos-sooth*, (emphasizing on the second syllable,) each giving *uth* the same sound as in *truth*—and by others, Kossuth, with no special emphasis on either syllable, but giving *u* the sound of *u* in *up*. One of his own countrymen, (an authority competent, of course, to decide the question), has informed us that neither is right, and that the name in the Hungarian language is sounded as if the last syllable was written in the English form, *shoot*. Consequently the true pronunciation is *Kos-shoot*, although it might not so appear by the rules of the English language, for the Hungarian language must govern, and the latter give *su* the sound of *shoo*, and requires *th* to be spoken as if the *h* were left off.

Our readers have been informed that Kossuth speaks the English language fluently. How he acquired a knowledge of it, is thus explained by the N. Y. Herald:

Having been consigned to imprisonment for three years for disobeying the edicts of the Austrian Government, he applied, at the end of one year, for the use of books. He was offered the choice of one provided it was not of a political character. He asked for three. The request was granted, and he selected the English Grammar, Walker's Pronouncing Dictionary and Shakespeare. By attentive study of these three volumes, he mastered the English language before the term of his imprisonment expired. Such a man is Kossuth the great Magyar Hero—and the idolized of Hungary.

THE HARVEST IN GERMANY.—There is no question as to the deficient harvest in Germany, and shipments of grain have already taken place from England, in consequence of it. In southern Russia, however, the crops have been abundant, and exceedingly fine in quality, and large shipments, will, therefore, take place from Odessa. [State Journal.]

Winter has come upon us in earnest. Last week we had snow to the depth of several inches, and yesterday it again fell, during most of the day. One more touch will make sleighing—then look out for the fastest nag. The hob-tail nags will be some, but the "grey" will be a good deal somer. [Mich. State Jour. Nov. 26.]

The Crystal Palace was open 5 months and 12 days, and the number of visitors was 6,201,886—making an average of about 40,000 a day.

The ninety independent military companies in the city of New York, composed of 6,000 persons, are to be out on parade on the arrival of Kossuth.

In the Legislature of Georgia, on the 3d inst., Mr. McDougald, of Muscogee county, presented a bill to prohibit the introduction of slaves into that State, for purposes of sale. The bill passed a first reading.

The Frenchman, when first coming among us, finds it more difficult to fit the English language to his mouth, than the Yankee to adopt the French.

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—The London Morning Chronicle publishes the following interesting statement vouching for its accuracy, and saying that the Admiralty, had ordered an inquiry; Gloucester, Friday.

An extraordinary circumstance has just happened here, which I hasten to communicate. It is almost incredible, but for the fact that the authority is undoubted, and the Admiralty have been induced to order an official inquiry, which is now being proceeded with.

These are the facts: Last Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Russell, a lady living at Wooton, near this city, observed something fall in the garden, while at dinner. On sending out the gardener, he found it to be a small balloon, in the car of which was a card, bearing the following inscription:

Erebus, 112 W. Long.
71 degs. N. Latitude.

September 3, 1851,
Blocked in.

The matter was at first looked upon as a hoax, but subsequent events led to a communication being made with the Admiralty, who sent for the balloon and card, and immediately on their receipt sent down Capt. Beechey, R. N. to Gloucester, with another officer, to make inquiries. These inquiries are now being prosecuted; Captain Beechey having been twice at Wooton, examining all parties residing there. It turns out that it is a real Government balloon, of exactly a similar kind to those sent out by the Erebus when she sailed from England.

TRADE AT NEW ORLEANS.—The Daily Crescent of New Orleans, under date of the 10th ult. gives the following graphic account of the decline of business prospects in that city, owing to the advantages given to the Northern route by means of canals and railroads.

Trade is passing away from our city. Nashville editors are canvassing in Savannah, and Charleston for business. Cincinnati is shipping East. St. Louis is following in her path. The Canal Board of New York have informally promised such rates as must invite the shipment of Kentucky tobacco in that direction. Galveston threatens to invite New York capital to build a railroad, and deprive New Orleans of the last vestige of Texas trade, by transferring it to New York having a superior system of banking (free) even under its exposure to the fluctuations and convulsions of foreign markets, stands ready to pay a premium on our lost trade.

The planters of our tributary country, and especially on the lines of our proposed railroads through Opelousas and to Jackson, Miss., are complaining of inconvenient access to us. Mobile enters the field, with New York, Charleston, Savannah, to say nothing of prosperous Baltimore and now wide-awake Richmond, to despoil and impoverish us, to take from us Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, all Northern and Central Mississippi and Texas.

The Augusta, Me., Age gives the following description of one of the piscatory genus recently taken near the mouth of the Saco river:

"The monster was captured at sea by some fishermen, a few weeks since, about 20 miles from the mouth of Saco river, in Maine. He is sixteen feet long, and when taken weighed 800 pounds. Anything like an intelligent description of the monster is impossible—for he is emphatically a non-descript. He has a head somewhat resembling that of a tortoise, fins like a whale, and tail like a lizard. His body, commencing back of the head, grows 'small by degrees and beautifully less,' until it finally terminates in a flat tail about six feet long, resembling the flat portion of an oar, and undoubtedly serves the purpose of propulsion. What is more singular, it had no bones whatever, except its teeth. Its tail and fins are a sort of catilaginous substance. It is supposed to be very young. Altogether it is a most wonderful—we cannot say 'fish'—but 'thing.' Mr. Clemens will exhibit it in several of the towns on this river, when he proposes to carry it to Boston or New York. The monster is worthy the attention of Barnum; he would make a fortune out of it."

The contracts for Stationery, Printing and Binding, furnishing fuel, &c., were let on Tuesday last, by the State Treasurer, Secretary of State and Commissioners of the Land Office. The following are the contractors:

State printers—Ingals, Hedges & Co., Lansing.
Stationery—J. B. Clark, Detroit.
Printing Paper—Lund and Chaplin, Ann Arbor.
Binding—Chas. A. Hedges.
Wood—Miles, Lansing.
The contracts were let under the law, to the lowest bidder. [Det. Free Press.]

NEW AND DANGEROUS FRAUD.—Twenty dollar bills of the Southport Bank, Connecticut, altered from ones, and remarkably well done, are in circulation. The alteration is done by extracting the figure 1, on each end of the bill, and printing in its place 20. The words "one dollar" in the body of the bill are changed by the same process to "twenty dollars." The changes are so nicely made, that the bills would be apt to deceive the best judges. The public would do well to refuse all bills of this denomination. We believe the bank never has issued any twenties. [Traveler.]

A letter received at Washington, from Havana, states that Consul Owen made charges against Thrasher to the Captain General, asserting that he had propagated libels to procure his (Owen's) recall, Thrasher being an applicant for the consulship. The previous news was that Mr. Owen was to defend Thrasher; when he came, to trial.

A silver pitcher, two goblets, and a silver are in course of preparation, at Mobile, to be presented to Wm. S. Smith, Secretary of the British Consul in Havana, in consideration of his kind and humane attention to the American prisoners taken with Lopez, while they were in prison in Havana.

A popular demonstration in behalf of the Irish exiles, is to be held in Philadelphia, in a few days. Gov. Johnston is to preside, and an immense gathering is expected.

As we feel the sunshine; as we breathe the balmy air; as we draw our life from household affection—so we drink in the pleasures and blessing of the newspaper.

The Grand Jury at Syracuse, have indicted James Lear, of Missouri, and the U. S. Marshal Allen, for an attempt to kidnap the slave Jerry.